(e) whether any arrests have, so far, been made;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the departmental action so far taken or proposed to be taken against the concerned officers of these hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. Recently CBI has registered two cases No. RC 4(A)/2005-ACU-IX and RC. 5(A)/2005-ACU-IX. RC 4(A)/2004-ACU-IX is relating to conspiracy in pursuance of irregularly granting recognition to Homeopathy Medical Colleges as well as granting increase in seats both in Graduation and Post-Graduation level. RC 5(A)/2005-ACU-IX is relating to allegation that the accused persons had entered into a criminal conspiracy with a common object to cheat Government and thereby caused wrongful gain to M/s Nestor Pharmaceuticals, New Delhi, by awarding contract worth Rs. 7.50 Crores (Approximate) for supply of laparoscopes for use in various Government Hospitals in the year 2001-02.

In these cases, searches have been conducted by CBI at (i) Bakson Homeopathic Medical College & Hospital, NOIDA, (ii) Solan Homeopathic Medical College & Hospital, Chamba Ghat, Solan (HP), (iii) GDM Homeopathic Medical College & Hospital, Patna, and (iv) Office Premises of the Consultant & Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. Searches were conducted as a part of investigation to collect evidences in these cases. As the cases are under investigation, the details of recoveries/seizures made during the searches are not made available by CBI. No arrests have been made by the CBI. As these cases are still under investigation, no departmental action has been initiated.

Polluted lakes in Andhra Pradesh

*249. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had surveyed the polluted lakes in the country during the last one year especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of such surveys made in each district;

(c) the remedial steps taken and to be taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government are facing financial crunch to clean the polluted lakes;

(e) if so, the amount allocated so far; and

(f) the amount to be allocated during the coming year to clear the lakes from pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government of India has not conducted any survey but a study was carried out for identification of polluted lakes in the country in the year 2003. The study identified 62 lakes, out of which 2 lakes namely, Osman Sagar at Hyderabad and Pulicat at Nellore were in respect of Andhra Pradesh. This list was sent to all States and the State Governments were requested to prioritise the lakes for conservation in their State.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has prioritised three lakes which are as follows:—

(i) Banjara Lake, Hyderabad
(ii) Mir Alam Lake, Hyderabad
(iii) Pulicat Lake, Nellore District

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh through the Hyderabad Urban Development authority (HUDA) have taken up the survey of water quality of 87 lakes in the Hyderabad Development Area covering the districts of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and partially Medak. In addition, four lakes have been taken up for study by the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board for remediation.

(c) The Government of India has already sanctioned the project for cleaning and rejuvenation of Banjara lake at Hyderabad at a cost of Rs. 2.75 crore in February 2005. The project components include bio-remediation, diversion of sewage and construction of Sewage Treatment Plant and lake front development etc. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has not submitted any proposal in respect of Mir Alam and Pulicat Lakes.

(d) to (f) An allocation of Rs. 220 crore was originaly made for National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) during the Tenth Plan period, out of which

Rs. 103 crore have been released for implementation of conservation works in 37 lakes. Allocation of fund during the coming year shall be subject to the progress of ongoing projects, utilization of funds released and new proposals to be submitted by the State Governments.

Cancer patients in the country

†*250. SHRI LAXMINARYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERITILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cancer patients is increasing in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that cancer medicines are costly and out of reach of common man; and

(c) the measures Government would take to provide these medicines to the common man on reasonable rates?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):(a) to (c) As per the information available through Population Based Cancer Registry functioning under the National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Reasearch, it has been estimated that about 7-9 lakhs new cancer cases are detected every year in India. At any given point of time, there are 20-25 lakhs cancer patients in the country. This data does not indicate any significant increase in the overall incidence rate of cancer.

The medicines which have been utilized for treatment of cancer are generally costly and therefore, they are normally out of reach of a common Indian cancer patients. However, it is noted that out of these drugs, only Chemotherapy drugs are generally expensive, while the antibiotics, anti emetics, vitamins, pain killers are not so expensive.

The Government had constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission to explore options other than price control to make available life saving drugs at reasonable prices. The Task Force has recommended access arrangements in case of low volume high prices drugs, which include most of the cancer drugs. The Task Force has recommended that the Government

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.